

District 7 Profile - Factsheet

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist07>

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), formerly known as the Division of Highways, was established by the State Legislature in 1972. The Department is primarily responsible for planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation of the state highway system. Other responsibilities include mass transit system enhancement, railroad system development, air transportation planning, and assisting area governments and agencies in planning and developing local transportation improvements.

District 7, which includes Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, is the second largest geographically of 12 Caltrans districts. The district employs approximately 2,511 people, with the largest group - 1,369 - working in the construction and maintenance areas. The remaining employees in District 7 are distributed between Administrative, Environmental, Planning, Design, Program and Project Management, Operations and Right of Way positions. The annual district personnel and operating expense budget is approximately \$286 million. During the next five years, it is projected that the District will manage a budget of approximately \$5.8 billion for transportation projects.

The Department's mission of improving mobility across California is evidenced in all District 7 activities. Several regional projects are currently underway which will assist in decreasing congestion and increasing mobility. Constructing an interconnecting High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) or carpool lane system continues to be a departmental priority. The purpose of the HOV program is to reduce congestion, by using the capacity of the freeway system more efficiently, and to increase mobility in the region. The central concept of the HOV program is to move more people rather than more cars. District 7 has 380 lane miles of HOV lanes in Los Angeles County, the largest amount in the state. In the next five years, 70 more HOV lane miles are planned. A High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) widening project on the San Bernardino Freeway (I-10), in the El Monte area, is in construction and two more are in the planning stages between Pomona and El Monte. The three-mile HOV segment of the I-10 from Baldwin Avenue to the 605 freeway will be opened to traffic in spring 2005. The \$34.7 million I-405 HOV lane project in the Inglewood area started construction in spring, 2003 and will add 5 miles of HOV lanes in both the northbound and southbound directions along I-405 between Route 105 and Route 90. Soundwalls will be built at various locations. The timeframe for completion is winter 2006. Another HOV lane project on I-405 between Route 90 and I-10 will begin construction before the end of 2004. Once complete, these projects will assist in congestion relief to one of the busiest freeways in California.



Caltrans, in conjunction with the California Highway Patrol (CHP), has implemented the Transportation Management Center concept to rapidly detect and respond to incidents while managing the resulting congestion. With the help of the latest in electronic technologies such as closed circuit television, information is fed into the center through pavement sensors, and other high-tech monitoring equipment. The Traffic Management Center (TMC) is a state-of-the-art support facility for traffic administration staffed 24 hours each day. Through the use of high-tech equipment, some of which was developed by Caltrans, motorists using the largest freeway system in the world benefit with a faster, more efficient transportation management network. It has been developed to implement the latest in

interactive/integrated transportation management and information systems using real-time computer assisted communication technologies. The Traffic Management Center is located in the Caltrans District Office Building in downtown Los Angeles. Since its inception in 1971, the TMC continues to serve as a worldwide resource for other states and countries interested in traffic management functions. A new facility, under construction in Glendale, will be freestanding and is slated to open in 2005.

The I-5 freeway corridor is a major regional transportation corridor for international, national, interregional and intra-regional travel and goods movement that extends the entire length of the western United States from Mexico to Canada. In Santa Clarita, the I-5/SR126 interchange is traveled by millions yearly, including visitors to the Six Flags Magic Mountain amusement park. Caltrans is continuing improvements to I-5 in Santa Clarita with the construction of two new bridge replacement projects, the third and fourth of seven scheduled projects. Two 36-month projects will replace the Magic Mountain Parkway and Santa Clara River bridges. The projects now underway, are being built in three stages in order to minimize impacts to the traveling public, expedite completion of both projects and reduce traffic management costs. Both projects are projected to cost \$ 45.3 million. The I-5/126 interchange improvement is the fifth project to the I-5 corridor in the Santa Clarita Valley since 2000. Some elements of the project include widening of SR-126 by adding two lanes in each direction, construction of new on-ramps, realignment of SR-126 to accommodate the widening of SR-126 and replacement of the existing bridge structure directly over I-5. Completion is expected to be spring, 2005.

The Ventura Freeway (U.S 101), a major inter-regional route connecting downtown Los Angeles, the San Fernando Valley, Ventura County, and Santa Barbara County, is currently undergoing reconstruction. The Lewis Road interchange in Camarillo, has reached its traffic capacity resulting in increasing congestion. Reconstructing the interchange will help alleviate traffic congestion and increase safety. The project consists of adding one lane in each direction; replacing and adding ramps; realigning streets; replacement of bridges; widening Lewis Road; and replacing a pedestrian freeway crossing over US-101. The interchange reconstruction will also provide improved freeway connections. New on- and off-ramps will make entering and exiting the freeway easier. The completion date for this project is expected in winter, 2005.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in partnership with the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), the City of Oxnard and the City of Ventura, is constructing a two-mile improvement project along the Ventura Freeway (Route 101). The project extends from Vineyard Avenue in the City of Oxnard to Johnson Drive in the City of Ventura and includes the Oxnard Boulevard interchange. Funding for this \$100 million project is provided by the State Transportation Improvement Program and the City of Oxnard. Project completion is expected to be winter, 2007.

These are but a few of the Department's daily activities to improve mobility throughout the area. We continue to develop faster, economical, and efficient methods to provide California with the safest, best managed and seamless transportation system in the world.

DISTRICT 7 - FACTS

- 92 million vehicle miles are traveled daily on Los Angeles County freeways.
- Los Angeles County has 533 miles of freeway.
- There are 567 conventional highway miles in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.
- There are 88 miles of freeway in Ventura County, including 185 miles of conventional highway.
- There are 27 freeways located within District 7 covering 615 miles.

*Caltrans District 7 - External Affairs - 120 South Spring Street - Los Angeles, CA 90012
Voice (213) 897-3656, Fax (213) 897-3836*